

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, December 14,
1784, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Trenton, Decr. 14, 1784

Dear Sir

Upon my arrival here I wrote you & committed my letter to the care of the secretary of Congress who said he wou^d. transmit it thro' Mr. Morris. I hope you have recd. it. It gives you a concise acct. of my late route to the lakes &c., as well as some observations wh I thought worthy your attention in the formation of a commercl. treaty with *Great Britain*, respecting *Canada*. It was late in Novr. before we formed a Congress but at present we have 9 States on the floor with a member from all the States except Maryld & in a few days we expect her delegation on. Fr. N.H. we have Mr. Foster agn. B.. hath given place to some other gent'n whose name I do not recollect. From Massachts we have Mr. Gerry, Holten, Partridge, King, & Gorham is appointed but hath not take his seat. Chancelor Livingston, Jay, Benson their Attorney Genl. & a Mr. Lansing from N.York; from R.I. H. & E. agn. A Mr. Johnson hath taken the place of Sherman & Colo. Cook of Wadsworth in Connecticut. Jersey hath the same members with Mr. Houston formerly in Congress. Pensa. hath chang'd her members & with others appointed Mr. Reid, their late President. S. Chase, Smallwood, Stevens & McHenry are I hear from Maryld. This is a respectable Congress & I am happy to inform you they

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have hitherto acted with perfect good temper & propriety not only in the manner of conducting the business, but of a mind comprehensive of the interests of the Union as well as an inclination upon the most genl. & liberal principles to promote it. I really promise great good to the Union from this Congress. Our affrs. with *Spain* & *G.B.* are before us. They are referr'd to committees & I flatter myself that the necessary measures will be effected respecting those *two courts*. I mean here, with those to whom they are committed in the manag'mt. With each will the subseq't success depend. You know how difficult it is to ascertain this latter point. It seems to be an opinion generally given into that a minister shall be appointed to the *Court of Britain*. That one shall also be appointed to take the place of *Franklin*; whom the former will be, is altogether incertain but I think it beyond a doubt *you* will be the latter. It is also probable that you may be appointed to negotiate that particular business with *Spain* but this is only probable. *If Franklin* hath left *France* it may be proper you sho'd not leave the court in case of that appointment. The *French* gentn here are very desirous of it. Monr. LaFayette hath been recd with very high marks of attention by Congress; they appointed a joint Committee to receive him & give him the thanks of Congress. Congress have also wrote a letter to the King in his favor. Propositions for the arrangement of commerce, to be handed to the States requiring that they invest Congress with the power of levying the duties upon imports & exports are before them. I think

recommendations to that effect will pass. A distinction will be made between the revenue & the regulation; the former unless ceded by the State to go to the State. As yet we have heard nothing from you except in a letter from on bd. Ship to Mr. Hardy on the committee of the States. It will give us pleasure to hear from you as well for the information you will give us of our affrs. abroad and when we shod so hear, as to be assur'd of your health & welfare. The Marquis of Fayette will know every thing wh. I have not mention'd of the affrs. of the Union in every part wh. will supersede the necessity of my detaining you longer for the present. Short hath I hope join'd you. I very sincerely hope You are all well & am with my affectionate wishes that you may remain so yr. friend & servant, Jas. Monroe

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RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress). Words in italics were written in cipher by Monroe.